

REMARKS

Claims 52, 55, and 56 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 52 and 55 have been amended to recite “a silanized mold.” Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 20-23.

Claim 56 has been amended to recite a temperature of at least 120°C. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, on page 16, lines 20-23, or on page 12, lines 8-12.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-50 and 52-59 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-38, 50, 53, 54, and 57-59 are allowed.

Rejection of Claims 52 and 55

Claims 52 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lochhead, U.S. Patent No. 6,039,897 (“Lochhead”).

Nowhere in Lochhead do Applicants see a suggestion or motivation for a silanized mold. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 52 and 55 are patentable over Lochhead for at least these reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 56

Claim 56 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lochhead.

Applicants do not see where in Lochhead is a temperature of at least 120°C suggested or motivated. Instead Lochhead discloses temperatures less than 100°C (see e.g., column 6, lines 56-58). Thus, claim 56 is believed to be patentable over Lochhead for at least these reasons. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants’ attorney at the telephone number listed below.

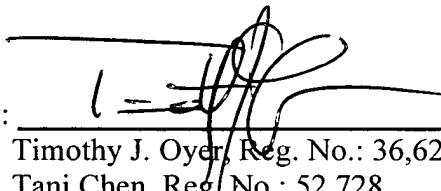
Serial No.: 09/940,072
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Art Unit: 1731

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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